

MEDIATING RESPONSE

The Conceptualization of Victimhood, Media, and Humanitarian Responses to Disasters in Haiti and Japan

TAKERU NAGAYOSHI '14

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition
Today, mostly sunny, milder, high 60. Tonight, clear, not so cold as in recent nights, low 32. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, breezy, milder, high 65. Weather map is on Page B20.

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In Google's Rebuke of China, Focus Falls on Cybersecurity

Concerns Could Force White House to Weigh In

By MIGUEL HELFT and JOHN MARKOFF

SAN FRANCISCO — Even before Google threatened to pull out of China in response to an attack on its computer systems, the company was notifying activists whose e-mail accounts might have been compromised by hackers.

In a world where vast amounts of personal information stored online can quickly reveal a network of friends and associates, Google's move to protect individuals from government surveillance required quick action. In early January, Tenzin Seldon, a 30-year-old Stanford student and Tibetan activist, was told by university officials to contact Google because her Gmail account had been hacked.

Ms. Seldon, the Indian-born daughter of Tibetan refugees, said she immediately contacted David Drummond, Google's chief legal officer.

"David informed me that my account was hacked by someone in China," Ms. Seldon said in a telephone interview. "They were concerned and asked whether they could see my laptop."

Ms. Seldon immediately changed her password and became more careful of what she wrote. She also allowed Google to examine her personal computer at the company's request. Google returned it this week, saying that while no viruses or malware had been detected, her account had indeed been entered surreptitiously.

Continued on Page A12

Haiti Lies in Ruins; Grim Search for Untold Dead



With Port-au-Prince hit by the worst earthquake in 200 years, the city struggled to rescue trapped victims and remove bodies.

'I Just Want My Wife's Corpse,' Survivor Pleads

By SIMON ROMERO

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — "I just want my wife's corpse," said Lionel Derville, pleading in vain for the body of his wife, who was killed in the earthquake.

Vast Destruction Hobbles Effort to Send Aid

By SIMON ROMERO

Arriving at the entrance of the private St. Esprit Hospital a few blocks from the Doctors Without Borders compound. No one there could explain who Regina was.

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition
Today, partly sunny, breezy, milder, high 55. Tonight, partly cloudy, breezy, a passing shower, low 45. Tomorrow, partly sunny, milder, high 52. Weather map, Page B20.

© 2011 The New York Times

Powerful Quake and Tsunami Devastate Northern Japan



Houses, swallowed by a tsunami set off by an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.9, burned Friday in Natori, Japan, one of the areas that was hardest hit.

Rescuers at Work as Death Toll Goes Up

By MARTIN FACKLER

TOKYO — Rescuers struggled to reach survivors on Saturday morning as Japan reeled after an earthquake and a tsunami struck in deadly tandem. The 8.9-magnitude earthquake set off a devastating tsunami that sent walls of water washing over coastal cities in the north. Concerns mounted over possible radiation leaks from two nuclear plants near the earthquake zone.

The death toll from the tsunami and earthquake, the strongest ever recorded in Japan, was in the hundreds but Japanese news media quoted government officials as saying that it was almost certainly more than 10,000. About 200 to 300 bodies were found along the waterline in Sendai, a port city in northeastern Japan and the closest major city to the epicenter.

Thousands of homes were destroyed, many roads were impassable, and trains and buses were not running, and power and cellphones remained down. On Saturday morning, the JR rail company said that there were three trains missing in parts of two northern prefectures.

While the loss of life and property may yet be considerable, many lives were certainly saved by Japan's extensive disaster preparedness and strict construction codes. Japan's economy was spared a more devastating blow because the earthquake hit far from its industrial heartland.

Japanese officials on Saturday issued broad evacuation orders for people living in the vicinity of two separate nuclear power plants that had experienced problems in their cooling systems.

Japan's Strict Codes and Drills Are Seen as Lifesavers

EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN

NUCLEAR PLANTS Japanese officials issued evacuation orders for people living in the vicinity of two separate nuclear power plants that had experienced problems in their cooling systems.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What explains different humanitarian responses to natural disasters? Why do certain disasters get heightened attention, while others are "forgotten"?

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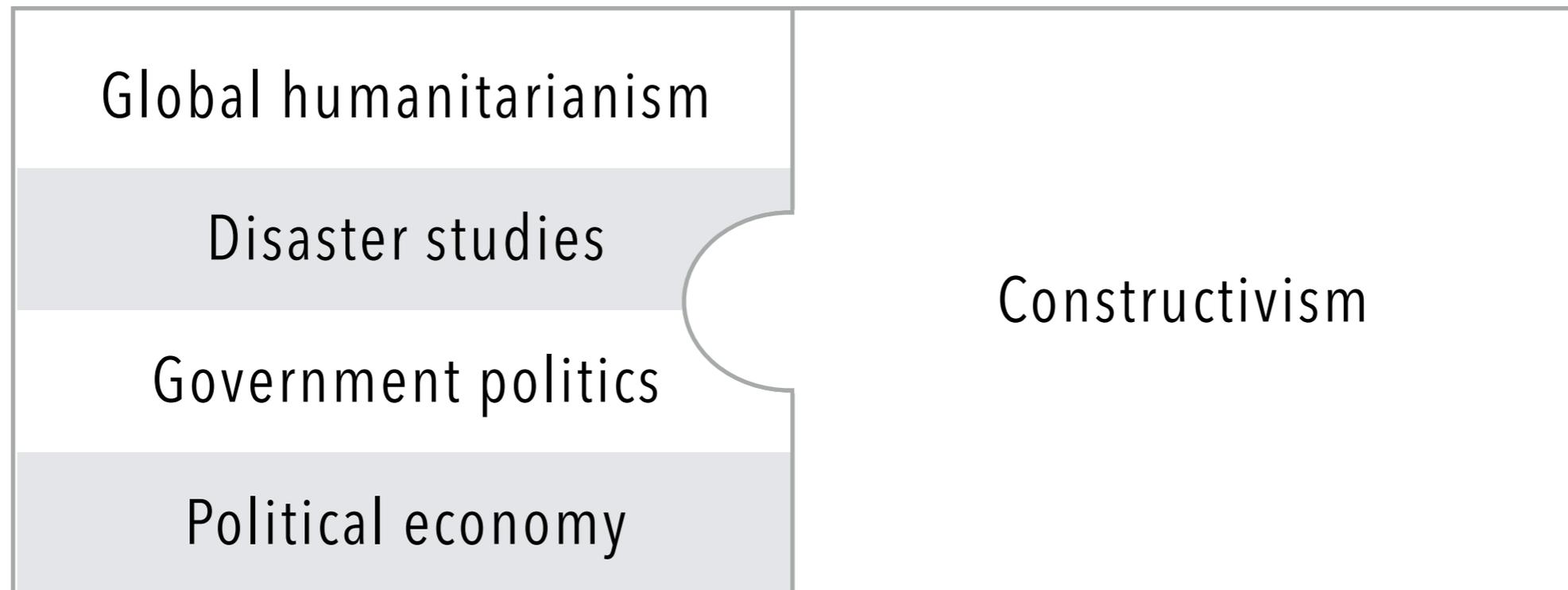
CURRENT APPROACHES



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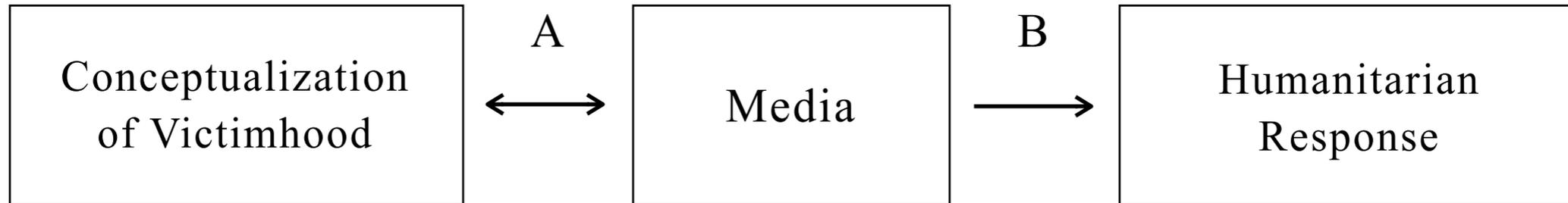


THESIS ARGUMENT

Independent Variable

Intervening Variable

Dependent Variable

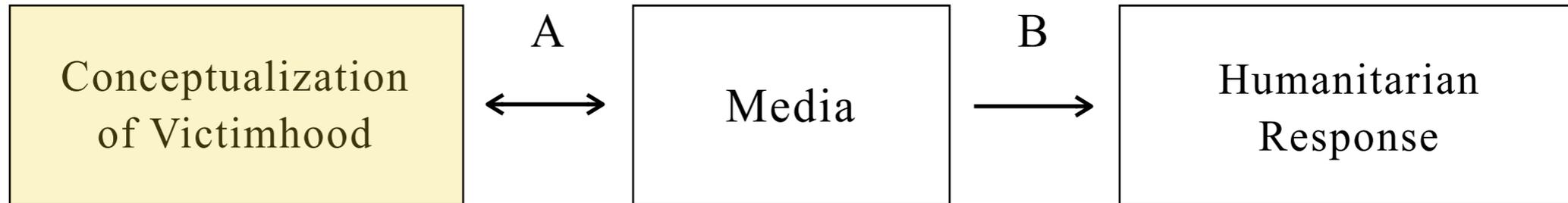


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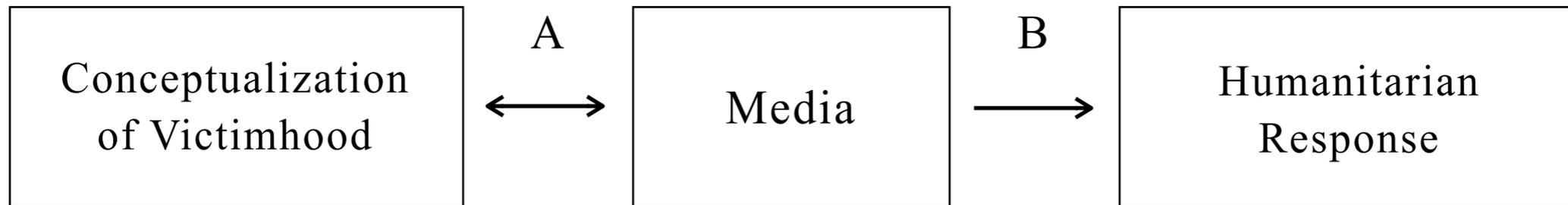


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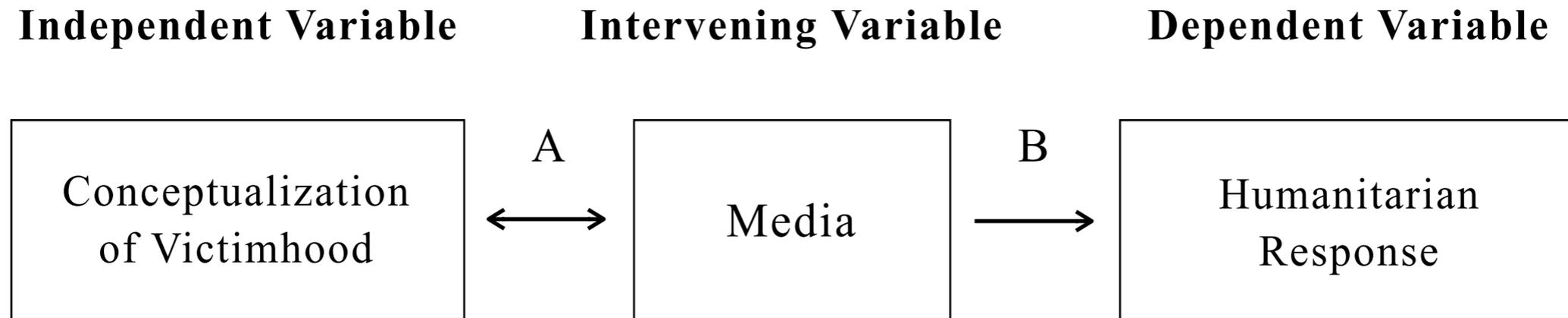
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The "ideal" conceptualization of victimhood must incarnate notions of vulnerability and dependence. Poor, non-white nations are objectified by the West as the ideal, helpless victim.

CASE STUDY

HAITI

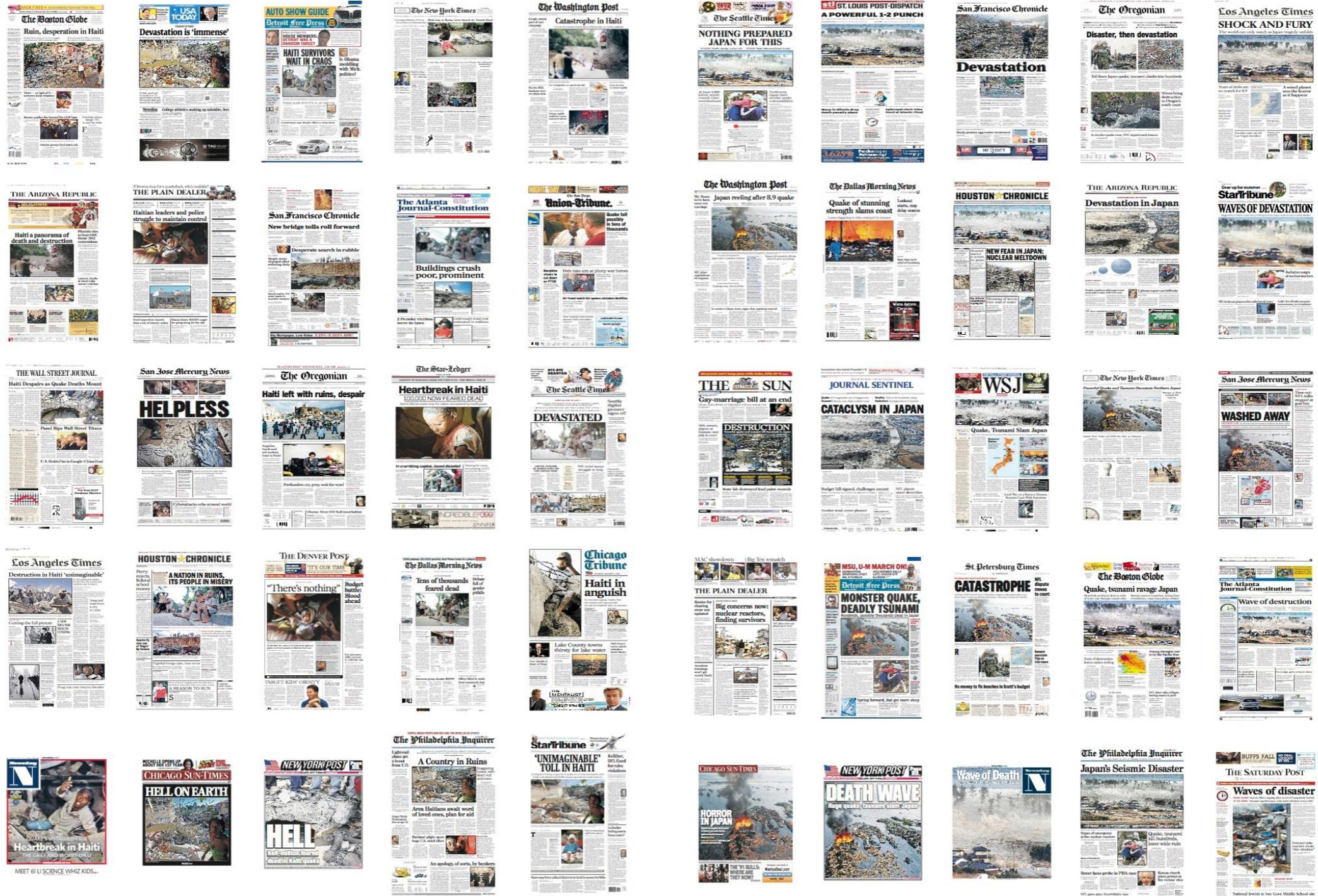


JAPAN



Timely, comparable, and data-rich units of observation that reflect countries of very different political and economic standing in the realm of international politics.

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS



FINDINGS I: MEDIA

San Jose Mercury News

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP
2.7 MILLION READERS WEEKLY IN PRINT AND ONLINE

Thursday, January 14, 2010

75 CENTS VALLEY FINAL 103
24/7 NEWS COVERAGE ON WWW.MERCURYNEWS.COM



DEATH TOLL: Streets littered with bodies; rescuers persevere



CHAOTIC SCENE: Fear, anguish spread across Haiti's capital



RELIEF: U.S. officials outline massive military response

HELPLESS



Injured patients wait for treatment at the St. Esprit Hospital in central Port-au-Prince on Wednesday, a day after a magnitude 7.0 quake flattened much of the capital.

SPORTS SJSU drops 58-54 heartbreaker to Utah St. SaberCats back with win in season opener

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JAPAN EARTHQUAKE



RUINATION: The 8.9-magnitude quake destroyed roads, buildings and other structures, especially in the northeast.



STRANDED: A woman and a child take shelter in Tokyo, hundreds of miles away from the epicenter, but still affected.



CLOSE TO HOME: Tsunami waves capsized boats and destroyed docks Friday at the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor.

WASHED AWAY

DESTRUCTION: Hundreds dead as tsunami swallows northern cities

DANGER: Nuclear reactors raise anxiety; waves strike across Pacific



LABOR STRIFE

Time out: NFL talks stopped at goal line

Players union decertifies; owners begin lockout

What happened: Negotiations for a new contract between the NFL and the players union collapsed Friday, putting the 2011 season in question. The union decertified and players filed an antitrust lawsuit against the owners. The previous agreement expired at 9 p.m. Friday.

At issue: Both sides remain divided on revenue sharing and the amount of league financial information that should be disclosed to players to justify the owners' demands.

What's next: The league began a lockout Friday night, which the union will try to prevent in federal court.

What it means: If the lockout is prevented, the league must continue operating under a set of temporary rules and free agency could begin in days. If the lockout proceeds, causing the first stoppage since '87, players wouldn't have access to team facilities or playbooks; there would be no free agency and all league activity would halt.

In Sports: How will it affect 49ers, Raiders? **PAGE D5**

Online: For the latest updates on this story, go to WWW.MERCURYNEWS.COM.

Sources: The Associated Press, New York Times

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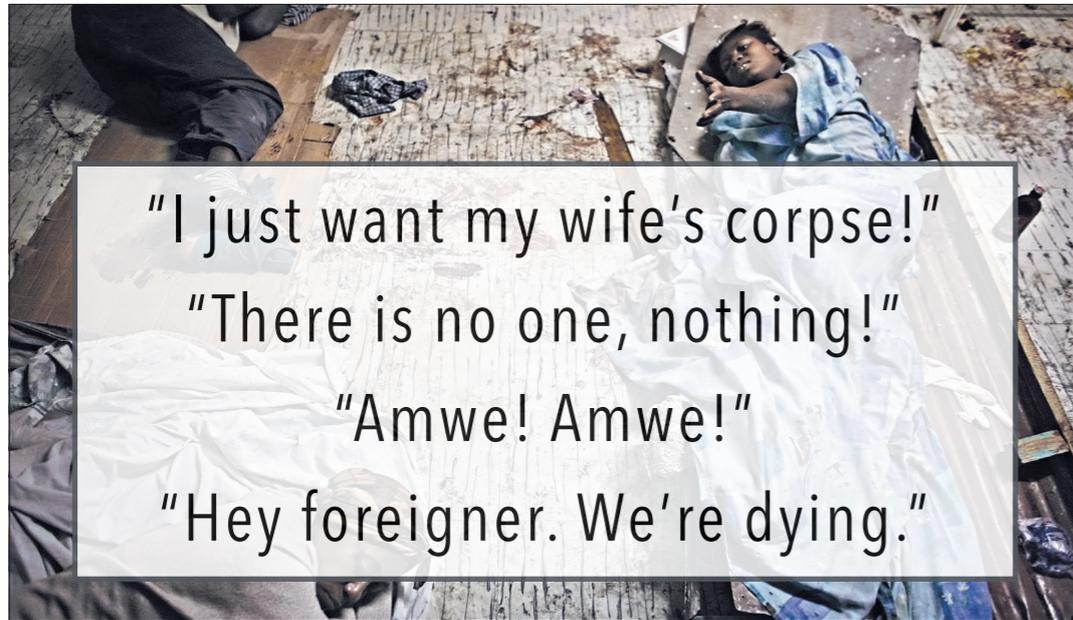


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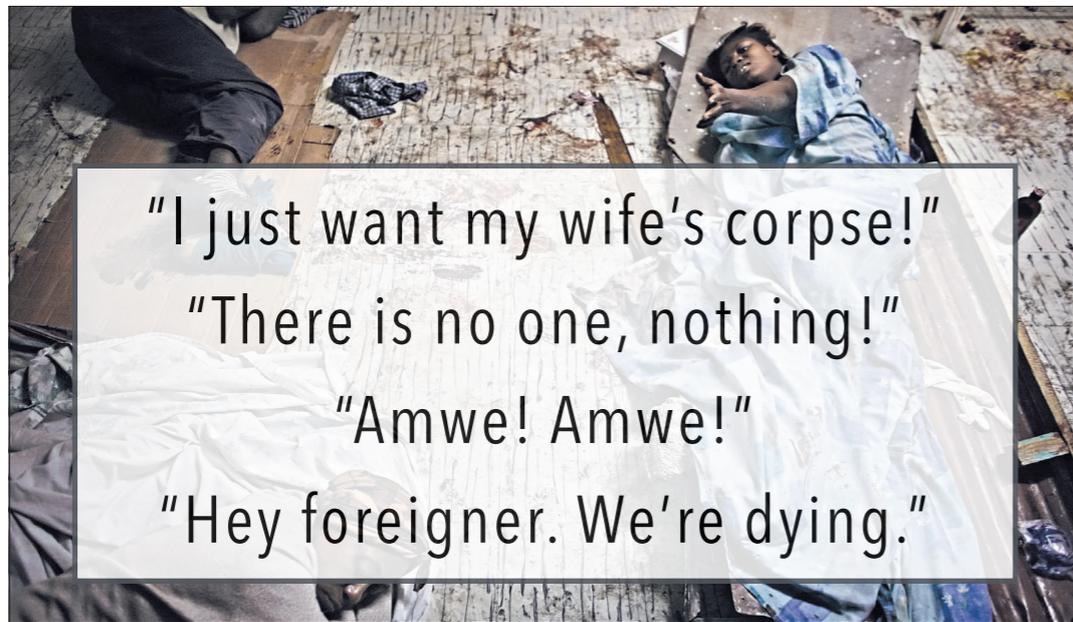


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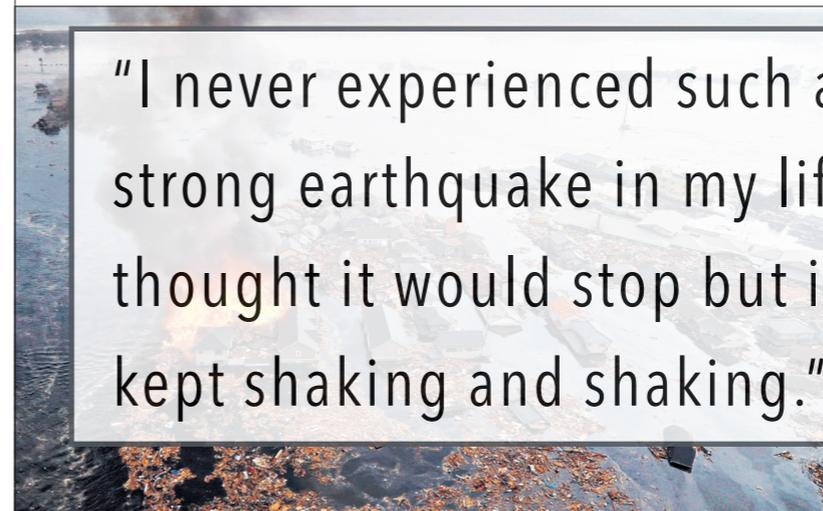


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"I never experienced such a strong earthquake in my life... I thought it would stop but it just kept shaking and shaking."

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FINDINGS II: HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

- NGO Response: Short-term focused, removed Haitian agency
- US Government Response: Presence of US military forces
- Celebrity Response: Mobilization of stars en masse



Hope for Haiti NOW



We Are the World Haiti 25

CONCLUSION

- **Implications on Theory:** Add element of constructivism to current approaches to disaster response that provides broader, holistic explanation to why response varies.
- **Implications on Policy:** We should be aware of conceptions of victimhood and base our response outside patronizing views that prevent us from affecting substantive change.

Independent Variable

Intervening Variable

Dependent Variable

